



Putting in the miles at the Poolesville Relay for Life. Pictures of this and other events are in the Family Album on page 2.



It's June and we've got a wedding in Tidbits on page 7.



Thomas Dillingham has achieved a new statewide position. Read more in Tidbits on page 7.



Catherine Hanagan cools down Willow following their last chukka. Read about Catherine and other local polocrosse stars in Youth Sports on page 15.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

June 17, 2011

Volume VIII, Number 8

Courts Allow Boyds Development

By Kristen Milton

Six years after its approval process began, the subdivision of the Boyds area Hilltop Farm still attracts attention as a recent two-hour hearing on the project sounded variously like a courtroom, a biology class, and a trading floor. The Montgomery County Planning Board was in a unique position May 26 as members held a hearing for a plan that courts directed them to approve, although the board was allowed to impose conditions on the plans to construct seven new homes on the 232-acre tract. "It seems to me we have limited options here," planning chair Françoise

Carrier noted before the unanimous approval.

The plan's applicants, Charles and Jean Faller and their six children, sold an easement to the county for more than \$895,000 in 1994, reserving the right to construct homes for themselves on the farm. The board last rejected the application in July 2007 on the basis that it did not adequately preserve agricultural land, a decision that made its way through appeals to the Circuit Court of Montgomery County and the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. The Circuit Court issued a remand order in March that stated that the board was "directed to grant" the preliminary plan.

Legal challenges to the decision may not be over as speakers referred to a pending suit by a contract purchaser of

the property, currently operating equine activities at the site, as well as a further appeal. A reconsideration of the plan was possible in the future, board counsel David Lieb said.

According to the approved plan, an existing home and agricultural buildings will remain on the farm site as the new homes are clustered on a jutting twenty-five-acre parcel referred to by planner Rich Weaver as an "ear" of the property. Four of the houses will have driveways to West Old Baltimore Road, while the remainder will share a driveway emptying onto Slidell Road. Both roadways carry the county's rustic roads designation.

Weaver said the configuration was the best way to accommodate the homes' wells and septic systems while also

-Continued on Page 18.

Postal Service Faces Raucous Reception

By John Clayton

Representatives of the United States Postal Service (USPS) held a meeting on June 8 at the Poolesville Town Hall to discuss a review process for the "emergency suspension" of the Beallsville Post Office and the timeline for the development of a proposal for the office's final resolution, which may well be permanent termination of the facility.

The suspension took place last July after the owners of the property, Eusubio and Paula Maita of Dickerson, raised the post office's rent. The USPS immediately began the process of emergency suspension and

launched the termination process. The Maitas subsequently offered the USPS the same terms as before, but this had no effect on the suspension. Post office boxes for ZIP code 20839 were moved to the Poolesville Post Office.

The meeting was conducted by Donald Moss, listed in correspondence as Manager, Post Office Operations and at the meeting as a Post Office Review Coordinator. She was supported by several other management-level post office operations personnel. The purpose of the meeting, as stated in a letter posted for Beallsville postal customers, was to solicit opinions "concerning a possible change in the way postal services are provided." The



Poolesville Postmaster Larry Kishanuk, Manager of Operations Support John Broadbeck, and Manager of Post Office Operations Cathy Toomer.

letter further stated that "our tentative plans will only lead to a formal proposal if we are satisfied that a maximum degree of regular and effective service can be provided."

Ms. Moss talked through a PowerPoint presentation which presented the scope of the USPS's task from a national perspective, their growth in

-Continued on Page 9.

Family Album



*The Family Album is sponsored by
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The winner of the Autism Speaks Triathlon was Jason Wade

Twelve-year-old Noah Pereles came in fourth out of over ninety triathletes at the Autism Speaks Triathlon.



At the Survivor's Luncheon during the Poolesville Relay for Life event, PES teacher Sharon Zgoda-Gillespie is joined by daughter and caregiver Annie Zgoda-Gillespie. Back row: Megan Harney, Heather Dice, Chrissie Harney, Loran Harney

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The young musicians of the Poolesville Youth Symphony Orchestra enthralled their audience on a storm-ridden night in late May.



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Local News

Testimony against Charging Homes for Easement Damage Highlights Town Meeting

By Rande Davis

The scheduled public hearing on changes to the town ordinance #184-Motor Vehicles, Traffic Control, and Highways which proposed to amend the document as to parking limitations of commercial vehicles, recreational vehicles, and buses solicited no public comments at the June 6 meeting; however, the public hearing on #185 of the same town code brought a number of public questions, comments, and suggestions. Proposed Ordinance #185, if approved, would assign fines and other charges to property owners for damage to public easements adjacent to their properties due to parking their vehicles on these right-of-ways. Such damage includes "ruts,

gullies, or destruction of ground cover, causing erosion or tracking of mud, gravel, and other material onto public highways." Property owners would be allowed time to restore such damage to its original state, but if the resident fails to do so, the town may issue fines and/or charge the property owner for the cost of restoration done by the town.

Resident Richard Woundy, first to speak, pointed out that he has such damage to the easement in front of his home but that his neighbor did the damage. He questioned why he would be held responsible for the damage done by others, especially since he has no legal enforcement ability to stop others from parking there. He asked if he could call town management for support in that situation. Rudy Gole offered additional examples of damage to such right-of-ways done by others, including delivery trucks, party attendees at neighbors' homes, and even town trucks. "What do residents do if delivery trucks cause the problem?" Other speakers supported the practice by some town residents who place rocks along the easement

to protect the lawn in front of their homes, but others objected strongly to this practice since "on-street parking is everyone's right," and since the easement is not owned by the town resident, they should not have the right to place the obstructions. Jeff Yarmis pointed out that, in some cases, roads are too narrow and vehicles need to park partially on the easement for public safety reasons.

Another speaker, however, offered support for charging property owners when it is clear that they have abused the parking privileges and have caused the damage, suggesting that such fines could be similar to any parking violation.

The commissioners thanked the resident speakers and will now take their testimony into consideration as they finalize the changes in the ordinance.

Tom Kettler, representing Heritage Montgomery, made a presentation on a proposed walking/biking tourism brochure for Poolesville and the surrounding area. He informed the panel that half of the \$4000 cost of such a brochure with a print order of five thousand copies would be paid by a matching grant from Heritage Montgomery. After explaining the benefits of the brochure to the town's economic future, he suggested that such a brochure might be completed by the end of summer or early fall. Town Manager Wade Yost reported that funds are available for the brochures from the printing line item of the town budget. The commissioners unanimously voted to approve the request. (See Local News-Heritage Montgom-

ery Civil War Anniversary Plans in this issue.)

Town Consulting Engineer John Strong advised the commissioners on plans to re-grade and repair areas surrounding Brooks Park adjacent to the Kohlhoss Road townhomes. Water that has been redirected through natural occurrences and other alterations by a resident to the surrounding landscape has resulted in the pooling of runoff water to the point that it limits the use of the park and prevents proper mowing of the area.

The \$15,000 cost of restoration will come from funds left over from other street-paving projects. The commissioners voted, 4-1, to approve the new expenditure. Mr. Klobukowski voted against the proposal preferring that the cost of any damage resulting from actions of residents should be charged to the residents. "I don't think it is right that other town residents should have to bear the cost of damage done by one individual." The majority, however, voted to approve the expenditure based on the practical versus the ideal. The concern was that the cost of pursuing property owners legally, especially since lengthy testimony from engineers would be required, would be too costly and, additionally, could leave the park unrepaired for years to come.

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Commentary

A Pebble in the Road

By John Clayton

A team of well-trained and informed United States Postal Service employees came to Poolesville to meet some well-informed and angry Beallsville citizens concerning the impending final closing of the Beallsville Post Office due to lack "of an acceptable lease agreement." The USPS people were well versed in the process of closing post offices. The Beallsville residents were well versed in the importance of their small post office to their community and of the historic significance of the site it was on. The twain did not meet. The post office closing juggernaut will rumble on, and it may or may not have any lingering effects from the little bump in the road represented by last week's meeting.

The USPS made a business decision last year to close the Beallsville Post Office, and now they have dropped by to finish papering their file and to close out the process. It's business, Mikey. It isn't personal; it's business.

Unfortunately for the people that see each other at the post office when they go to pick up or send their mail, it is personal. One of the issues being debated on post office closings across the nation is its impact on rural America. Small offices may only serve small numbers of people, but they also serve as hubs of their communities, providing a social center and meeting place that may not exist otherwise. Small post offices also provide more accessible locations for the elderly and others who may have trouble getting around or hitching rides to go longer distances. Nevertheless, in the Poolesville Town Hall last week, it didn't take much to see that the problem of forty-eight people who have to drive four extra miles to get to their P.O. boxes doesn't amount

to a hill of beans in this crazy world.

The *Monocle* maintains a mailbox at the Barnesville Post Office, and I would greatly miss the interactions I have with neighbors and the postmaster if that office were closed and I wasn't able to go there every day. If nothing else, I would be a good deal less informed on neighborhood news which, in my case, may represent more than just a social liability. I realize that this and a dime would not mail a postcard, and that it is not one of the USPS's criteria for maintaining offices, and in all fairness, far from a concern for the taxpayer. I should understand that I am only four miles or so from the Dickerson or Boyds Post Offices, and when they close, only eight miles or so from Germantown or Poolesville.

Based on numbers provided by the USPS in the meeting, the Beallsville Post Office was technically profitable, although that concept is of marginal value, since virtually all of their costs can be folded into a nearby post office (Poolesville) with little increase to that office's expenses. The post office views this as an opportunity to eliminate some small costs—an office here, an office there, it probably adds up. It has been publicly stated that closing small post offices is a component of their attempts to fashion a viable business model for their enterprise. Saturday mail delivery is also on life support. Our elected representatives and government officials are wrangling over the rules for closing and, ironically, profitability does not seem to be one of them, but lease expiration is.

It was remarked in the meeting that the post office people couldn't be bothered to have this meeting in Beallsville, which may have been the final insult. This was probably innocent; it may never have occurred to them that Beallsville might have had places to meet, although Owens Park and the UMCVFD firehouse come to mind. Perhaps they asked their local people for a good location,

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 Keeping An Eye On Local News
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or maybe, as angry residents suggested, they didn't want to meet in Beallsville and face more irate customers than necessary. I don't think any of this—meeting in Poolesville, not having reviewed or responded to the community's appeals, the refusal to negotiate the lease— was arrogance; it was indifference—the banality of bureaucracy. It wasn't their job to be aware of anything about this closing except what they had been told—the lease expired. We closed the office because we could. Have a nice day.

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Local News

Poolesville to Produce Civil War Brochure

By Kristen Milton

Poolesville will soon be ready to join the sesquicentennial observances of the Civil War with a new brochure highlighting the area's involvement in the conflict. Poolesville commissioners voted unanimously June 6 to spend \$2,000 on the walking/biking brochure, an amount that will be matched by a \$2,000 grant from Heritage Montgomery.

"This is a great way to leverage our work on the Master Plan and our future plans and have the map available much sooner rather than in a couple of years from now," Commissioner Chuck Stump said in endorsing the expenditure.

The town's planning commission has discussed the brochure

concept as it updates the municipal master plan. "Poolesville played the most significant part in the county as far as the Civil War," said Heritage Montgomery director Peggy Erickson. "I think Poolesville has an amazing history and they haven't done a good job of telling that story or capitalizing on it." She hopes the brochure, which will also include some landmarks outside of town limits, will begin that process.

Town manager Wade Yost said the idea of a brochure had been floating around for years although it was given more immediacy by the master plan discussions. "Much of the content has been developed over the years by many sources," Yost said. "We are more or less compiling the information into one brochure, which will hopefully increase tourism and bring visitors into our retail establishments."

Erickson said approximately five thousand copies of the brochure would be printed and distributed to historic and tourism sites across the county. She was hopeful it could be available

by July although in his presentation to the town, Heritage board member Tom Kettler referred to the fall as the goal.

Poolesville, and the pro-secessionist leanings of many of its residents, was featured in Heritage Montgomery's documentary "Life in a War Zone," which was unveiled in March and will begin playing on area public television stations in July. Thousands of Union troops camped in Poolesville during the war.

And the Civil War may not be done with Poolesville yet.

In April, commissioners heard from nineteen-year-old Poolesvillian Matthew Heimbach about his hopes to construct a Confederate memorial in town. Heimbach, a member of Sons of Confederate Veterans, said it could be anything from a statue to a plaque. Commissioners were mixed in their support of the idea. Heimbach's Facebook page entitled "Support for a Poolesville Civil War Memorial" currently has eighteen members.

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Poolesville: Spacious 3 BR, 2.5 BA home in the Westerly subdivision. This comfortable home features a 20'x'10' breakfast rm /laundry rm addition, office/study, family rm w/ stone fireplace, Trex deck, fenced backyard w/ 16'x8' storage shed, large lot w/ mature trees. Convenient to all town amenities. MLS#MC7546213.
Offered at \$379,999.



Adamstown: Prestigious 4 BR /3.5 BA brick-front colonial in Adamstown Commons. Amenities include hardwood flrs., fluted columns, built-in bookcases, 2 fireplaces (in master BR & family rm.), 3-car side-load garage, huge patio, premier corner lot adjoining open space. MLS# FR7525641.
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Comus: Unique 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath post and beam home nestled on 25.2+/- acs. Amenities include: two-story great room w/stone fireplace, loft, updated kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances, wood flrs. MLS#MC 7546962.
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Things to Do

June 17

Blood Drive

Relay for Life blood drive for Phillip Weigner and all Poolesville survivors. Located at Pike and Valega, DDS (19601 Fisher Avenue) Please call 301-972-7000 to schedule appointment
Noon to 6:00 p.m.

June 18

Community Yard Sale

Forest Grove United Methodist Church, Route 28, Dickerson Road
Lunch and bake sale
For space and a table, call 301-349-5416
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Rain date June 25

National Air and Space Museum Presents 2011 "Become a Pilot" Day

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum presents the 2011 "Become a Pilot" family day and aviation display from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at its Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. For the seventh annual "Become a Pilot" day, fifty vintage, recreational, military, and home-built aircraft will fly in and be displayed outdoors. Appearing with their aircraft parked outside the center's Boeing Aviation Hangar, pilots will discuss life in the cockpit and, in some cases, let visitors climb behind the controls. This year's event will also include the donation of the Fleet Model 2

"Plane/Jane," the only surviving Roosevelt Field Fleet trainer and one of only six surviving Fleet 2s of the approximately 350 Fleet aircraft manufactured and used at flight schools all over the country from 1929 to 1942. The acceptance ceremony will take place at 11:30 a.m.; the donors, Gene Breiner and his daughter Joyce Breiner, of Poolesville, will attend.

June 18

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: So Far Gone
8:00 p.m.

June 19

Father's Day: Great time to take Dad to an area restaurant

June 23

Mad Science of Washington – "Things that go boom"

Poolesville Library
Prepare to be blasted off with sound effects and cool chemical reactions galore! Learn and see how sounds are made, listen to your friends talk in wacky voices. See how chemistry can make things get bigger, bolder, and more colorful than you ever imagined. Watch a rainbow of colors appear before your eyes! Suitable for children grades K-5. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. No registration required.
2:00 p.m.

June 24

Farmer's Market and Summer Concert in the Park at Whalen Commons
Farmer's Market

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Includes Bark in the Park – Cutest Dog Contest from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Summer Concert

Featuring: Joint Chiefs

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

June 25

Odd Fellows Annual Seniors Summer Picnic

Open to all seniors. A wonderful tradition of fun and fellowship—bring your friends.

Please join in the great meal, entertainment, and fun.

There will be musical entertainment and delicious ham and chicken picnic lunch.

Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church

Free

1:00 p.m.

Please RSVP your attendance to Bill Poole (301-972-8007) or Dale Nestor (301-349-5450)

June 25

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Smoke 'n' Mangoes at 7:00 p.m. and Slant 6 (combining the best elements of rock, blues,

metal, and pop to create a crowd-pleasing rendition of both classic and current favorites) at 8:30 p.m.

June 25 and 26

14th Annual Montgomery County Heritage Days

Thirty-six venues throughout the county celebrating the grand history of Montgomery County and offering a variety of children's activities, musical performances, with special attention to the county's role in the Civil War

Special Event on Sunday Only:

The Washington Revels Heritage Voices will perform Civil War era music (they performed at Poolesville Day 2010). There will be a special appearance of Abraham Lincoln.

Additionally, there will be a previewing of the new film *Life in the War Zone: Montgomery County during the Civil War* to be shown in the Town Hall at 2:30 p.m.

July 1

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Bill Euler
8:00 p.m.

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Tidbits

Congratulations to MCPS Graduates

Education Week released its annual "Diplomas Count" report and, once again, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has the highest graduation rate among the nation's fifty largest school districts. This is the third year in a row that MCPS has been at the top of this list and in this year's report, the MCPS graduation rate increased to 85.7 percent.

Davis-Downey Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. John Downey

Juliana R. Davis and John F. Downey exchanged wedding vows at a sunset celebration overlooking Sugarloaf Mountain at the Comus Inn on June 10, 2011. The bride is a graduate of the class of 2000 at Poolesville High School and teaches English at Blake High School in Montgomery County. The groom is a graduate of the class of 1997 from Wilde Lake High School in Columbia, Maryland and works for i4DM. Juliana and John met and became friends while attending Towson University. They reconnected after graduation and were engaged in 2009. They reside in Columbia, Maryland.

The sister of the bride, Mieke J. Frishman, was the maid of honor and her sister-in-law, Camille Hartz Davis was bridesmaid. Jeremy Downey, brother of the groom, was the best man and Brian Downey, brother of the groom, was the groomsman. The bride's nieces, Alexandra

Davis and Femke Frishman were flower girls. Her nephew Leif Euler was the ring bearer, and nephews Joshua Davis and Alexander Frishman were hosts. The bride's parents are Rande and Laura Davis of Poolesville, and the groom's parents are Tom and Rosemary Downey of Columbia, Maryland.

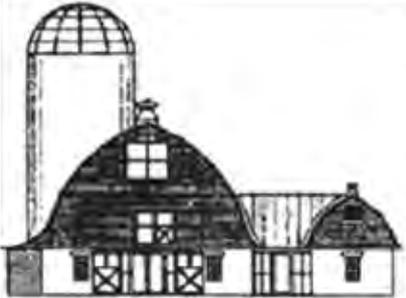
All-Gazette Honors Announced

Congratulations to Poolesville High School (PHS) junior Jonah Hessels and senior Chantal Agnew for their honorable mention selection to the All-Gazette Lacrosse teams. Jonah lives in Laytonsville but attends the Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) at PHS where he is an outstanding student with a 3.85 unweighted grade point average. He is just as dominant on the lacrosse field as a midfielder/attackman. As a sophomore, he scored thirty-nine goals and had nineteen assists. This year, he was second in the county with goals scored. He hopes to be recruited to play NCAA Division I lacrosse. Chantal, one of three captains on the 2011 girls' lacrosse team and also a GESP student, was a dominant scorer and force to be reckoned with as a midfielder on the squad. She started on varsity as a freshman and helped lead her teammates to division titles and county recognition throughout her high school career. She will be attending Wagner College next year on an academic/athletic scholarship and has signed to play NCAA Division I lacrosse for the Wagner Seahawks.

Local Girl Wins International Poster Contest

Earlier this year, the Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Fatima Council No. 690,1 was pleased to report the winners of the 2011 Substance Abuse Awareness Poster Contest. The council is thrilled to announce that the poster submitted by Rachel Macairan, a fifth

-Continued on Page 10.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

June 2011

"Protecting our rural legacy"

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 Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

Landscaping Businesses in the AgReserve?

The original Montgomery County Master Plan did not allow landscaping businesses in the AgReserve. However, in recent years a Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) has been passed which permits landscaping businesses as a special exception. The special exception process is intended to protect the surrounding neighborhood from the adverse effects of commercial businesses such as noise, dust, mulch pollution, and truck traffic.

As you may be aware, the residential community surrounding Melody Butler's landscaping business at 21020 Peach Tree Road spent over four years and many thousands of dollars to close down this landscaping firm which was operating without a special exception and thus illegally. The two acres involved are narrow and long, thus preventing any kind of buffer or privacy between the landscaping operation and the neighboring properties.

Now, Steve A. Silverman of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development is proposing a ZTA which would allow landscaping businesses in the AgReserve "by right". If approved, this means that a landscaping business could operate legally in the AgReserve without having to apply for a special exception and, therefore, without regard to the adverse effects on neighboring properties. Passage of this ZTA would allow Melody Butler to reopen her illegal landscaping business on two narrow acres on Peach Tree Road.

Not only does Sugarloaf Citizens' Association oppose any ZTA which would allow landscaping businesses in the AgReserve "by right," but SCA would like to see the special exception standards for landscaping businesses tightened to require an adequate buffer between the operation of the business and the neighboring residential properties.

There are many illegal landscaping businesses operating in Montgomery County's AgReserve right now because of poor enforcement of the existing County Code. **Poor enforcement remains a huge problem due to under-funding and consequent under-staffing within the Department of Permitting Services.**

SCA will be monitoring the progress of this proposed ZTA to protect the interests of the AgReserve and its residents. To find out more, be sure to visit our website, www.sugarloafcitizens.org.

Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

July 1, 1959 The county council trapped down a zoning request that would have allowed the construction of a stone quarry on a two-hundred-acre site in Boyds.

July 4, 1940 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Perry of Chevy Chase entertained a large group at an Independence Day picnic at their farm, Brierly, near Poolesville.

July 5, 1960 Juvenile Court Judge Alfred Noyes of Barnesville was elected as president of the National Council of Juvenile Court Judges.

July 13, 1960 The school board received the annual reports on county high schools. Poolesville High School was given the score of 3.2 out of 5. The school board said that they did not expect Poolesville to lose accreditation, but the school was weak in several areas.

July 16, 1940 Harry Rhodes of Poolesville and the supervisor of the Japanese beetle eradication program reported that 31,000 beetles had been

trapped in 5000 traps supplied by the federal government. Mr. Rhodes said that ten boys were employed to empty the traps and then either burn or crush the insects.

July 24, 1941 Teenagers in the upper Montgomery County area were scouring the area for any discarded aluminum pots and pans in a program to provide aluminum for the building of military airplanes. Boys and girls on bicycles had collected large piles that were stored at selected sites. Mrs. Julius Hall of Poolesville donated an old aluminum coffee pot that had been made in Germany. She was quoted as saying, "I'm sending it back to Germany, on wings."

July 29, 1962 The Poolesville town council was scheduled to consider a request to annex 3300 acres of land into the town. Developer Bernard Siegel had envisioned a satellite city he wanted to build on a wide swath of land south of Poolesville. Mayor William Bliss was quoted as being opposed to the idea.

July 30, 1941 Paul H. Robinson of Poolesville volunteered for army service and was scheduled to report to the induction center in Baltimore in a few days.



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"Beallsville Post Office" Continued From Page 1.

points of delivery, and the financial challenges they face from reduced revenues from electronic communications and the recession. The projections she presented on mail volumes and revenue were bleak.

The meeting became a good deal more lively when Ms. Moss discussed the specifics of Beallsville. The aforementioned letter stated that "Postal services were suspended...when the Postal Service could not reach an acceptable lease agreement with the landlord." Beallsville resident and Sugarloaf Citizens' Association activist Eric Cronquist retorted that the landlord had offered to maintain the same rental terms, but that this had no effect. Ms. Moss acknowledged the rental offer, but said that "it was received too late." Local activist Jane Hunter pointed out that "there was no negotiation" because the USPS in a letter specifically refused to negotiate. Mr. Cronquist, Ms. Hunter, and Beallsville resident Mark Maier asked a number of questions concerning the timing of events and what they clearly viewed as a process with a preordained conclusion. Ms. Moss replied to a number of inquiries that they would "try to get back to you to answer questions we cannot answer," as indeed none of the USPS personnel at the meeting appeared to have been part of the decision process, which was handled by their "Property Division" in Greensboro, North Carolina.

One of Ms. Moss's slides showed that the annual rent on the office was \$12,600, salaries and benefits were \$70,540, and revenues (Fiscal Year 2009) were \$105,758. She stated unequivocally that the office was closed to save the cost of the lease and the transportation expenses of maintaining a separate office. Staffing was transferred to replace the hiring of additional staff elsewhere. In answer to a question, she said that forty-eight or fifty rented boxes were transferred to Poolesville, and that about fifteen of them have subsequently

closed. She said that the 20839 ZIP code would endure along with the name Beallsville, and that preserving such names was important to the USPS.

Ms. Hunter and Mr. Cronquist also expressed their concern that a lot of information had been sent to the USPS concerning the Beallsville Post Office and its value to their small community, but they had never received any response. None of the personnel at the meeting was familiar with any of it and said it had gone to the Greensboro property office. There was a good deal of discussion about the timing of the revised rental terms in early July, which had no effect on the suspension a week later. Later in the meeting, Mr. Cronquist presented a copy of that offer signed by the landlords in April. This was portrayed as a contradiction to the USPS's assertion that the terms were received too late, and was described by Mr. Maier as "a smoking gun." Ms. Moss pointed out that there was nothing to indicate when that information was presented to the USPS, and Mr. Cronquist and Ms. Hunter said they would try to establish that date from their files. They further promised to "paper [her] to death" with all the materials that had gone to Greensboro so that Ms. Moss and her team could better evaluate Beallsville's case.

Ms. Hunter also spoke to the community benefits of their local post office, and challenged whether the USPS was aware that the office was in a historic district. She added that this was obviously something of value as thousands of dollars were being spent to preserve the Darby store just across the street. These and similar issues had been raised in questions sent to the USPS last year. Ms. Moss said she was aware of them, had forwarded them to others, and had not received answers.

There was also a good deal of discussion over the timeline of the remaining decision process. The USPS seemed confident that the savings they would realize from the closing and the availability of postal services in the Poolesville Post Office would

meet their criteria for a final closing of the office, regardless of the other issues raised in the meeting. The ten-day public comment clock is running, which will be followed by a sixty-day posting of a recommendation for "customer comments and District Manager review and approval." Opportunities for appeal remain after that.

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"Tidbits" Continued From
Page 7.

grader at Poolesville Elementary School, was selected as first place winner at the international level competition in the 8-11-year-old Alcohol Awareness category. Rachel's poster was selected among entries submitted from localities throughout the United States. She will be awarded a \$250.00 check and a Letter of Recognition.

Barnesville's Brown Receives Medal of Valor for Heroism

On Wednesday, April 27, Prince George's County Maryland held its 34th annual Public Safety Luncheon to honor the county's police, sheriff, fire/EMS, corrections, and homeland security members. Master of Ceremonies of the event were Wisdom Martin and Paul Wagner of Fox 5 News. Among the honored recipients was Barnesville's

Joe Brown who received a Silver Medal of Valor for his actions at an apartment fire on April 26, 2010.

Joe graduated in 2001 from PHS and works full time for the District of Columbia Fire Department at Truck Company 17. He is also a captain of the Kentland Volunteer Fire Department and Captain and the President of Patriot Land and Wildlife, which is based out of Barnesville. Brown is still a member of the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department in Beallsville.

Previously held at Georgetown Prep in Bethesda, this is the first year it has come to Poolesville. The event consisted of a 13.4-mile bike course, a 5K run, and a 400-meter swim. With over ninety athletes participating, the finalists were Jason Wade (age 33), Monte Lewis (age 39), Todd Moniot (age 39), and Noah Pereles (age 12). Susan Pereles, event coordinator, was pleased with their first event in Poolesville and plans to return to Poolesville next year.

Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

First degree assault: Justin Wachter, 25, of the 17600 block of Soper Street, Poolesville, was charged with first and second degree assault after an incident at the 75-80 Dragway in Monrovia. Maryland State Police investigated a report that someone had driven a vehicle into a crowd of pedestrians at the track. Police later arrested Wachter.

Assault: 18700 block of Dar-nestown Road.

Theft of vehicle: 19900 block of Jerusalem Road.

Disorderly conduct complaints: 17400 block of Hughes Road, 19600 block of Wootton Avenue, 19500 block of Fisher Avenue.

Drug use complaints: 18300 block of Cattail Road.

Past Crime

June 27, 1931 In one of the most daring holdups in years, two men got away with \$249 after the robbery of a Bethesda hardware store. The owner had been lured away by a fictitious telephone call where the caller had ordered a length of hose. When he returned to the store, he heard the back door open and he was struck over the head with a bludgeon and tied with lengths of rope. At that time, a clerk arrived back at the store and he was threatened with a pistol.

June 30, 1928 Montgomery Chief Alvie Moxley called for an increase in the size of the police department. He cited traffic congestion at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Georgetown Road and predicted that it would get worse

upon the opening of the highway to Silver Spring. Another officer said that it was common for motorists coming from Washington, D.C. to immediately start speeding once they reached the Maryland line due to the lack of enforcement because there were only sixteen officers on the force.

June 30, 1939 Judge DeLashmutt, judge of the Rockville Police Court, had his salary reduced to \$1800 a year. He immediately claimed that the reduction in salary was due to his support of a certain county commissioner. In other news, Ms. Ada Howard of Quince Orchard was hired as telephone operator at the courthouse at a salary of \$900 a year. She replaced Ms. Buzzard who had resigned citing low pay.

July 1, 1932 A six-year-old Bethesda boy was bitten by a dog owned by a group of bonus marchers who were passing through Bethesda. The marchers had stopped to rest under a tree on Wisconsin Avenue, and the dog was let loose and ran up to the boy who was playing nearby. The marchers then left the scene and police were searching for them.

July 1, 1955 Two men drowned in separate drowning accidents. In Damascus, the thirty-three-year-old father of two drowned in a farm pond as he swam towards an inner tube. His father, who was wheelchair-bound, had to go a mile to find a telephone to summon help. In the other incident, a fisherman disappeared in the Potomac River while fishing near Seneca.

Powell Publishes Fourth Book

Fans of author Mary Ann Powell will be thrilled to learn she has published her fourth book entitled *Kentucky Bred*. This is a wonderful set of six short stories of a charming horse that does it all, about his travels, and the home he never forgets. Only thirty-two pages of wonderful short stories, it is perfect for gifts or summer beach reading. It is now available directly from Mary Ann Powell at 301-407-2121.

Dillingham Installed as Maryland's Odd Fellows Grand Master

Dr. Thomas "Tom" B. Dillingham, Jr., past Noble Grand of Poolesville Lodge #97 Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), was installed as Grand Master of the Odd Fellows for the State of Maryland. The impressive ceremony was held at the Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel in Ocean City, Maryland on May 21, 2011. In his capacity as grand master, Tom's major responsibilities will entail oversight of twenty-one lodges across the state.

Autism Speaks Comes to Poolesville

On June 12, Poolesville hosted the Autism Speaks Triathlon which raised \$60,000. Autism Speaks is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders, to funding research into causes, prevention, and treatments, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Connor Awarded Eagle Scout Rank

Kevin John Connor obtained the rank of Eagle Scout at a Troop 496 recognition ceremony on June 5. Kevin is the son of John and Katherine Connor of Hersperger Lane in Poolesville. Eagle Scout Connor spent 147 hours planning, organizing labor, and building two new baseball dugout roofs at the Stevens Park in Poolesville.

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Local News

The Next Grand Marshal of the Poolesville Day Parade Is?

Do you have someone in mind whom you think should be the Grand Marshal of the 2011 Poolesville Day parade on September 17? Someone who should be recognized for exceptional, outstanding, distinguished, sustained, or special service to the Town of Poolesville? For the first time, you now have the opportunity to place that person's name in nomination for the Grand Marshal selection.

The Poolesville Day Committee has been very busy preparing for the upcoming 21st Poolesville Day Celebration, and in beginning the process to select a grand marshal, the suggestion was

made and accepted to open the selection process to the general public. Before placing a person into nomination, you should confirm in advance that he or she approves of your doing so, as any nominee selected must be willing and able to attend the Poolesville Day parade. The process is quite simple. Visit the Poolesville Day website (www.poolesvilleday.com) and go to the parade page to download the nomination form. All the instructions are on the form; keep in mind that past grand marshals may not be nominated and the submission deadline is July 29, 2011. Nominations after that date will not be included in the process.



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Youth Sports

Pranav Gokhale and Michael Gao Lead PHS Boys' Tennis

By Jeff Stuart

Poolesville High School seniors Pranav Gokhale (second singles) and Michael Gao (first singles) talked to the *Monocle* about their own careers, the boys' tennis season, their teammates, and their post-graduation plans.

Pranav Gokhale

MM: What was your best indi-



The PHS Boys' tennis team.

vidual match of the year?

PG: Our match against Damascus High School was definitely my best individual match and our best team effort. As our first division match, we didn't know what to expect from Damascus and had a rough start. By the time my opponent and I split our first two sets, we were down, 1-3, having lost at first singles, third singles, and first doubles; however, I was able to pull off a tiebreaker-win after a tight third set, and our fourth singles (Stephan Weir) was also able to win his third set. Our third doubles team pulled off a straight-sets win, and we stormed the court with our 4-3 victory over Damascus.

Although we ended up with a pretty good record, we placed third in our division after Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Sherwood High School...so this year, Bethesda-Chevy Chase will be moving up to the top division.

MM: You have been through a number of coaches.

PG: Indeed. We have had four coaches in the last four years: Mr. Rogers, Mr. Pulupa, Mr. Lang, and, currently, Ms. Dacek. All have been

great coaches. Ms. Dacek played college tennis in Arizona and coached the girls' team to a division victory in the fall (they'll be in the top division next season). Our coaches have certainly had different coaching strategies, but we've managed the transitions quite smoothly.

MM: Tell the readers something about your off-season training? Did you seniors play together or against each other outside of high school?

PG: Michael Gao, Neil Chainani (first doubles), and I were part of a tournament-players clinic at the Avenel Tennis Club in Potomac. Also, many of our doubles players attended clinics at the Quince Orchard Indoor Tennis Center. A couple of us had private coaching, too. We also played matches against each other, both informally and in official USTA tournaments.

MM: What are your post-graduation plans?

PG: I will be attending Princeton University. Michael, Andrew, Sanjay, and Neil will be attending the University of Maryland, Col-

lege Park; Stephan will be playing tennis for St. Mary's College (MD). Joseph Aryankalayil will be attending NYU. Most of the rest plan to play club tennis at our respective colleges.

MM: What do you do to support each other?

PG: When the singles players finished our matches, we stayed by the court to cheer on the doubles players. We also had team lunches on every game day to encourage team bonding and to discuss tips and strategies.

MM: How did you get involved in tennis?

PG: I have been playing casually since middle school and competitively since high school; however, most of our players are fairly new to the sport. For instance, Michael Gao and Stephan Weir both picked up the sport after ninth grade, yet have managed to make it to the top of our lineup through intense practice throughout the year.

-Continued on Page 14.

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"Tennis" Continued From Page 12.

Poolesville doesn't have a tennis center, so the expansion of our magnet program has been a sort of boon to our tennis teams because we now pull in kids from towns like Gaithersburg and Germantown, which do have tennis centers. Next year, one of the top players in the nation (ranked sixty-fifth in his age group nationally and second in Maryland), Dennis Wang, will be coming to our team. His home high school was Northwest, but the magnet buses will allow him to play for Poolesville.

Michael Gao

MM: What was your best individual match of the year?

MG: My best match was against Magruder. They had a very good freshman, Jan Lasota, at number one. The score was 6-1, 6-3. Magruder is a tough division opponent. The win helped boost morale for the rest of the team, leading us to an overall victory, five matches to two.

My post-season results were not as great as I would have liked them to be. I lost first round in

the county tournament 6-3, 6-2 to Uday Virk of Clarksburg. He was playing very well that day and deserved to win.

I am a very avid snowboarder, and fractured my wrist going off of a big jump at Pico Mountain, Vermont in February. It was very hard to get back into the game. When I played it still hurt; however, I did not want to miss my last season at Poolesville. I persevered and ended up being the number one singles player, something I have aspired to be since I began playing. I had never picked up a tennis racket before the summer going into my sophomore year, so everyone was shocked that I managed to become first doubles with Andrew Tse. He is the person who actually got me into tennis. We are very good friends. I picked up the sport very quickly and loved it. I played nonstop every day. I can only play tennis until the sun sets, so I put off my homework for later in the night.

I showed tremendous growth as a tennis player. In my junior year, I managed to become top of

the junior class, playing at third singles behind two seniors. Finally, I became the first singles. I plan to continue playing club tennis at the University of Maryland, College Park next year where I am studying bio-engineering at the Honors College.

The Falcons finished their season record at 8-3 with a division record of 6-2. Seniors Andrew Tse and Stephan Weir were the third and fourth singles players. First doubles were sophomore Andy Neti and senior Neil Chainani. Second doubles were senior Sanjay Chainani

and junior Rahul Raghunathan. Third doubles were junior Sean Dao and sophomore Neel Virdy. Sophomore Cory Latham, freshman Dennis Levin, senior Joseph Aryankalayil, and sophomore Prateek Mechineni were alternates. The team manager was junior Vy Do.

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Youth Sports

Boyds Polocrosse Players Make International Team

By John Clayton

A seven-member United States Pony Club International polocrosse team will travel to the United Kingdom in July to compete against pony club polocrosse teams from around the world in the 2011 Pony Club International Exchange as part of the World Cup Polocrosse Competition. Three Boyds residents will be on that team: Catherine Hanagan, Peter Balogh, and Nick Balogh. Nick and Peter represent the Potomac Pony Club, and Catherine is from the Seneca Valley Pony Club. They will be joined by four other team members and two alternates from pony clubs around the country. Their coach, Brandon Alcott, is from Washington State.

The team will represent the United States International



Peter and Nick Balogh take a break between chukkas.

Polocrosse Team in an event at Onley Grounds Equestrian Centre in Warwickshire, England, beginning July 8, hosted by the England Pony Club. Recently, the *Monocle* attended a pony club rally on the club's field in Boyds to see an exhibition of this fast-paced and exciting sport, which featured these three homegrown players, all graduates of Poolesville High School. The event featured competitions by intermediate, novice, and pre-novice age groups, in addition

to the initial exhibition of the older players, which Pony Club dad Richard Balogh said would "show young/beginner kids how the sport can be played." Mr. Balogh said that the sport was very popular, and that this event was a good example of its growing appeal. He added that last year eight teams showed up, and this year there were eighteen teams, coming from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, North Carolina, and Michigan.

Nick and Peter have recently traveled to several local pony clubs to teach clinics and help grow the sport. They were thrilled to see that many of those kids had formed teams and showed up to compete in the multi-region rally.

Peter Balogh, eighteen years old, after completing a chukka, or match, said that he had traveled to Australia with the American Polocrosse Association (APA) USA U21 squad, and that he was looking forward to going to England for the first time and being a part of the World Cup Competition. As he helped cool off his mount, Pinkey, on a very hot and muggy day, he said that he had been participating in polocrosse since he was fifteen years old. Pinkey and the other pony club horses are not getting tickets to England, so Peter, Nick, and Catherine will have to ride on horses provided by their hosts, which Peter said could give the home team a decided advantage. Peter's twenty-year-old brother

Nick, who has played polocrosse for seven years, was also a member of the APA U21 team that traveled to Australia in 2008, as reported in our March 21 issue of that year, "Two PHS Seniors Seek World Cup Opportunity."

Catherine Hanagan, who was similarly cooling down Willow with a garden hose, said she had been riding since she was three years old, but that she had just started polocrosse.

Polocrosse is a combination of polo and lacrosse played on horseback. Each rider uses a racquet head with a loose, thread net in which the ball is carried. The objective is to score goals by throwing the ball between the opponent's goal posts. The United States Pony Clubs, Inc. is a non-profit national youth organization to teach riding and horsemanship through a formal educational program. Many of the nation's top equestrians, including many of our Olympic team members, have roots in Pony Club. Nick, Peter, and Catherine are also members of the Sugarloaf Mountain Polocrosse Club that practices out of Boyds on Bucklodge Road.



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Local News

Loving Charity Hall Receives Grant

By Kristen Milton

As money in the bank nears its expiration date, supporters of Martinsburg's Loving Charity Hall hope a new grant will give a new impetus to restoration work on the century-old site. Heritage Montgomery announced in May the awarding of a \$50,000 African American Heritage Preservation Program Grant to the Warren Historic Site for restoration of the hall, constructed in 1914 as an African American fraternal benefit hall. The grant is from the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), although Heritage Montgomery facilitated the award.

"It's to get it going," Heritage director Peggy Erickson said, adding that she expected the money would be used to obtain permits or otherwise prepare logistically for work at the site. "Each pass-

ing month it becomes a little more fragile, so it really is imperative that they move forward,"

The hall, part of a two-acre site also encompassing a church and schoolhouse on White's Ferry Road, once hosted dances and social events while providing insurance and other benefits for what began as a freed-slave community; however, as the Martinsburg population dwindled, the hall fell into disrepair.

The structure was stabilized in 2006 with funds from the County Council, but there has been little activity in the intervening years, although the state and county have awarded grants totaling over \$250,000 to the effort. Warren Historic Site president Elsie Thomas said raising the required matching grants has been a challenge.

Thomas and Erickson said the success of the project may depend on attracting volunteers with organizational skills or familiarity with the restoration and permitting processes to serve as facilitators.

"We would love to have more volunteers to help with the archives or submitting papers because we

have to get started," Thomas said. "We don't want to lose the money that has been given to us; that would be the worst thing."

Thomas said committee members "hope and pray" to move quickly enough to start work this year. It would take the building one step closer to reclaiming its position as a community meeting spot. "Once we get the hall, we want to do some amazing things," Thomas said. She envisioned senior citizens coming to the hall for blood pressure checks or lectures, students receiving SAT tutoring, and genealogists perusing the archives of the community to be stored there.

Loving Charity Hall is located behind the Warren Methodist Church, built in 1903, and a one-room schoolhouse, built in 1886 and in use until 1939. Thomas, a third-generation Martinsburg resident, attended the church before its 1991



Charity Hall is scheduled for renovation.

merger with Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Dickerson and was a youth in the 1950s spending Friday nights at the hall. She founded the Warren Historic Site Committee in hopes of preserving the history of the sites.

Those interested in volunteering or donating to the Warren Historic Site can contact Thomas at kianacierra@verizon.net or the nonprofit address of P.O. Box 44, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Poolesville Farmers' Market

June 24, 4 PM - 9 PM
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“Hilltop Development”
Continued From Page 1.

dividing the subdivision from the approximately 207 acres that will remain in the agricultural tract. “It protects agriculture to the extent possible,” he said.

In the past, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board and others have raised concerns that the homes constructed for the Fallers would instead be sold to non-family members. It was an issue the family addressed by offering a commitment to hold the homes for at least five years. The offer did not appease Carrier who expressed surprise that the easement purchased by the county did not preclude such construction. “I am surprised that the county spends all this money on this program if it’s just for a five-year prohibition on selling them,” she said. “It doesn’t make sense to me that they would have this program with that expectation.”

David Brown, attorney for Hilltop opponents, agreed. “What was the \$895,000 paid to Hilltop for if it wasn’t to eliminate the

[residential] density?” he asked. “The whole thing is supposed to be a farm, not a farm plus a subdivision.”

Faller attorney Stephen Orens pointed out that the county would be reimbursed for the acreage used for the homes and received control of the property for at least twenty-five years as well as other benefits through the easement. “They got the value that they bargained for,” he said. “What Hilltop bargained for was the right to come to this board.”

One hundred Boyds area property owners signed a petition opposing the Hilltop subdivision in 2006, and some of those opponents returned to testify before the board May 26.

In his testimony, veterinarian Peter Eeg, who said he has leased Hilltop land for hay production in the past as well as assisted with the past beef and current equine operations at the site, presented photos of what he said was an endangered bog turtle found on the property.

Although an inventory of the property’s natural resources

conducted several years ago did not reveal any bog turtle habitat, board members added a condition that the survey would be updated before the water conservation plan was approved in order to double-check for the turtle; however, they declined to postpone their vote based on the new information.



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